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one hundred and seventy-two pupils, supported at an expense of more than one hundred and twenty-two thousand dollars. This simple statement is sufficient to show the practical wisdom and forethought of those who labored for the establishment of the Primary School Committee. Whether that organization had not fully accomplished its work is a question which we shall not reopen here ; but certainly it is now too early to pronounce an authoritative opinion as to the comparative advantages of the old system and of that which replaced it. No one, however, can read Mr. Wightman's narrative, and examine the documents which he has cited, without respect for the disinterested and zealous laborers who carried the primary school system in this community to so great a degree of perfection.

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- 13.—1. *Self-Help ; with Illustrations of Character and Conduct.* By SAMUEL SMILES, Author of "The Life of George Stephenson." Boston : Ticknor and Fields. 1860. 16mo. pp. 408.
2. *The Same.* New York : Harper and Brothers. 1860. 12mo. pp. 363.

IN a brief and interesting Preface to this volume, Mr. Smiles relates the circumstances which led to its preparation, and which in themselves afford a striking illustration of his subject. About fifteen years ago, as he informs us, he was invited to deliver a lecture before a class for mutual improvement, which had grown up from a very small beginning in one of the towns in the North of England. He accepted the invitation, though he had but little faith in popular lectures ; and "he addressed them on more than one occasion, citing examples of what other men had done, as illustrations of what each might, in a greater or less degree, do for himself, and pointing out that their happiness and well-being as individuals in after life must necessarily depend mainly upon themselves,—upon their own diligent self-culture, self-discipline, and self-control,—and, above all, on that upright and honest performance of individual duty, which is the glory of manly character." The good seed thus scattered fell on fertile ground ; and one evening, some years afterward, he received a visit from one of these young men who had prospered in fortune, and who "was pleased to remember with gratitude the words spoken in all honesty to him and to his fellow-pupils years before, and even to attribute some measure of his success in life to the endeavors which he had made to work up to their spirit." His interest in the subject of self-help having been thus revived, Mr. Smiles was induced to prosecute his inquiries still further, to write the Life of George Ste-

phenson, who had formed one of the principal illustrations in his lectures, and also to prepare the volume now on our table.

Its spirit and aim are sufficiently shown in the citation already given; and in the development of his plan, Mr. Smiles exhibits the same modest ability which characterizes his *Life of Stephenson*. His work comprises a thorough and systematic discussion of his subject, and is written in a pleasing and graphic style. It opens with a suggestive chapter on "Self-Help, National and Individual," which is designed to form a general introduction, while the remaining twelve chapters illustrate special phases of the subject. Among them are chapters on the "Leaders of Industry," "Scientific Pursuits," "Workers in Art," "Business Qualities," "Self-Culture," and "Character." The whole is illustrated by numerous anecdotes and short biographical sketches admirably chosen to enforce the lessons which they are designed to teach. Mr. Smiles possesses great skill in the delineation of character, and his gallery of portraits offers many striking examples for study and imitation. His acquaintance with biographical literature is very extensive; and no reader can fail to be struck with the variety and richness of his materials. These materials are made easily accessible by means of a copious and well-arranged Index, and the volume is also furnished with running-titles.

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14. — *The Voyage of the "Fox" in the Arctic Seas.—A Narrative of the Discovery of the Fate of Sir John Franklin and his Companions.* By CAPTAIN M'CLINTOCK, R. N., LL. D. With Maps and Illustrations. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1860. 12mo. pp. xxiv. and 375.

THOUGH Captain M'Clintock made some geographical discoveries in the Arctic regions, the chief interest of his narrative centres in the information which he obtained in regard to the lost expedition commanded by Sir John Franklin, and he has very properly given prominence to this result of his voyage on his title-page. His vessel was purchased and in part equipped at the expense of Lady Franklin; the journal of his voyage was kept for her perusal, and is now published at her request; and on his return home he had the mournful satisfaction of reporting to her the success of his expedition, and the close of the long-continued quest. Sailing from Aberdeen on the 1st of July, 1857, with a little company of twenty-four persons, Captain M'Clintock found himself unable during the summer to cross Baffin's Bay, and was frozen into the ice at the end of August. From that time his vessel continued to drift southward for a period of eight months, and over a distance of